



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX  
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON  
Lieutenant Governor

## Department of Natural Resources

BRIAN C. STEED  
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

J. RORY REYNOLDS

# MEMORANDUM

Date: March 18, 2021

To: Utah Wildlife Board / Regional Advisory Council Members

From: Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator

**Subject: Overview of 2021 buck deer permit recommendations**

The attached tables summarize the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' recommended permit allocations for the 2021 buck deer hunts. We've made these recommendations after evaluating 2020 harvest information and conducting post-hunt assessments of herd composition.

The number of permits we're proposing for 2021 will help us achieve or maintain the objectives detailed in Utah's mule deer management plan for harvest size, animal quality and hunting opportunity. For specific information about how individual big game species are managed, please refer to <https://wildlife.utah.gov/> and use the search field to find the statewide management plan for the species of interest.

Below is a summary of the **2021 big game permit recommendations**:

- 1) For general-season deer hunting, we manage a total of 29 hunting units. There are 19 units with a post-season objective of 18-20 bucks per 100 does and 10 units with an objective of 15-17 bucks per 100 does. For 2021, we are recommending permit increases on 4 units, no changes on 9 units, and permit decreases on the remaining 16 units. Statewide, we are recommending 74,775 general-season permits, which is a 4,900-permit decrease compared to last year.
- 2) Utah's premium limited-entry deer units — Henry Mtns and Paunsaugunt — are managed for older bucks (the management objective requires at least 40% of the harvested bucks should be five years or older). For 2021, we recommend no changes in permits on either the Henry Mtns (49 permits, three-year average of bucks five years or older is 55%) or the Paunsaugunt (135 permits, three-year average of bucks five years or older is 66%).



- 3) Premium limited-entry deer units are managed for 40-55 bucks per 100 does post-season. For 2021, we recommend no management buck permits on the Henry Mtns (three-year average is 38 bucks per 100 does) and a reduction in management buck permits on the Paunsaugunt from 31 to 15 permits (three-year average is 44 bucks per 100 does). We recommend a reduction in Paunsaugunt cactus buck permits for 2021, from 33 to 30 permits.
- 4) We recommend five permits per unit on the three Handgun, Archery, Muzzleloader, and Shotgun (HAMS) units, for a total of 15 permits.
- 5) We recommend reducing 141 limited-entry deer permits, decreasing from 1,455 permits to 1,314 permits.

